

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (previously presented). A rubber composition comprising:

a rubber component;

sodium 1,6-hexamethylenedithiosulfate dihydrate, in the amount of 1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts of the rubber component; and

compound A having two or more ester groups in one molecule, in the amount of 0.5 to 20 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the rubber component,

wherein said rubber composition has, in a curve exhibiting a change in dynamic storage modulus during elevation of temperature, an intersection of an extrapolation line A of a portion in which the dynamic storage modulus shows an approximately linear change before a rapid decrease at temperatures higher than 100°C and an extrapolation line B of a portion in which the dynamic storage modulus rapidly decreases, at a temperature of 170°C or higher.

Claims 3-4 (canceled).

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/326,691

Claim 5 (previously presented). A rubber composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound A is an acrylate or a methacrylate.

Claim 6 (previously presented). A rubber composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound A is a polyfunctional ester of a polyhydric alcohol and acrylic acid or methacrylic acid, and wherein the polyhydric alcohol is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of tetramethylolmethane, trimethylolpropane and polymers of these compounds.

Claim 7 (original). A rubber composition according to claim 6, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is trimethylolpropane or a dimer of tetramethylolmethane.

Claims 8-9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (previously presented). A rubber composition comprising:
a rubber component;
sodium 1,6-hexamethylenedithiosulfate dihydrate, in the amount of 1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts of the rubber component; and
compound A having two or more ester groups in one molecule, in the amount of 0.5 to 20 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the rubber component,
wherein said rubber composition has, in a curve exhibiting a change in dynamic storage modulus during elevation of temperature, a difference $\Delta E'$ between the maximum value and the

minimum value of the dynamic storage modulus at a temperature between 180 and 200°C of 2.5 MPa or less.

Claim 11 (previously presented). A rubber composition according to claim 10, wherein the compound A is an acrylate or a methacrylate.

Claim 12 (previously presented). A rubber composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound A is a polyfunctional ester of a polyhydric alcohol and acrylic acid or methacrylic acid.

Claims 13-20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (currently amended): A pneumatic tire ~~according to claim 19~~ comprising bead fillers and/or side wall portions reinforced with a rubber reinforcing layer, wherein the rubber reinforcing layer and/or bead fillers comprise a rubber composition comprising sodium 1,6-hexamethylenedi thiosulfate dihydrate in the amount of 1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts of the rubber component, and wherein said rubber composition has, in a curve exhibiting a change in dynamic storage modulus during elevation of temperature, an intersection of an extrapolation line A of a portion in which the dynamic storage modulus shows an approximately linear change before a rapid decrease at temperatures higher than 100°C and an extrapolation line B of a portion in which the dynamic storage modulus rapidly decreases, at a temperature of 170°C or

higher, wherein the side reinforcing layers and/or bead fillers further comprise a rubber composition comprising a compound A having two or more ester groups in one molecule, in the amount of 0.5 to 20 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the rubber component.

Claim 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (currently amended): A pneumatic tire comprising bead fillers and/or side wall portions reinforced with a rubber reinforcing layer, wherein the rubber reinforcing layer and/or bead fillers comprise a rubber composition comprising sodium 1,6-hexamethylenedithiosulfate dihydrate in the amount of 1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts of the rubber component, and wherein the rubber composition has, in a curve exhibiting a change in dynamic storage modulus during elevation of temperature, a difference $\Delta E'$ between the maximum value and the minimum value of the dynamic storage modulus at a temperature between 180 and 200°C of 2.5 MPa or less and wherein the side reinforcing layers and/or bead fillers further comprise a rubber composition comprising a compound A having two or more ester groups in one molecule, in the amount of 0.5 to 20 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the rubber component.